UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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UDALL APPROVES STATE WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS

Final action on 1964-65 waterfowl hunting regulations for the 50 States was taken today when Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall approved the States' selection of specific open season dates.

The regulations, being published in the <u>Federal Register</u>, are in accord with "frameworks" recently established by the Secretary. The frameworks include earliest and latest dates in which hunting seasons may be held, bag limit options, number of shooting days, and other special regulations.

Outside dates fixed by Secretary Udall are:

October 3, 1964, through January 3, 1965, for ducks and October 1, 1964, through January 15, 1965, for geese in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways; and October 10, 1964, through January 10, 1965 for both ducks and geese in the Pacific Flyway.

The number of shooting days and bag and possession limits vary among flyways, based on the expected fall flights of waterfowl to each flyway and the hunting pressures exerted in the flyway.

Regulations generally are the same as last year's. There is a five aday increase in the length of season in the Mississippi and Central Flyways and minor changes in bag and possession limits on specific species.

Waterfowl hunting regulations are issued by the Secretary of the Interior after recommendations have been made by the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bureau recommendations are based on two intensive aerial and ground surveys of waterfowl breeding areas; information derived from banding hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese on their breeding and wintering areas, a measure of birds killed the previous year—as obtained from a mail survey of waterfowl hunters.

The first 1964 survey of the breeding grounds, which began in early May and extended into June, indicated a small increase over the 1963 breeding population. The second survey, made mostly in July, showed that the production rate from this slightly larger breeding population will be less than that of 1963.

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